



# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Dorn Schuffman, Director



DEPARTMENT  
OPERATING  
REGULATION  
NUMBER

DOR  
6.478

CHAPTER Human Resources	SUBCHAPTER Personnel Administration	EFFECTIVE DATE Jan. 15, 2001	NUMBER OF PAGES 3	PAGE NUMBER 1 of 3
SUBJECT Certification of Forensic Examiners		AUTHORITY Sections 552.020, 552.030, and 630.050, RSMo	HISTORY Revises DOR 6.478 Effective 8/1/98	
PERSON RESPONSIBLE Director, CPS			SUNSET DATE 7/01/05	

**PURPOSE:** Prescribes standards for certifying examiners to perform forensic evaluations.

**APPLICATION:** Applies to all persons performing forensic evaluations who are either employed by or contract with the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

(1) Under this DOR, a "certified forensic examiner" is any person qualified under the standards in this DOR to perform and supervise pretrial evaluations on questions of competency to stand trial or criminal responsibility under sections 552.020 and 552.030, RSMo as directed by the department director. Certified Forensic Examiners serve at the discretion of the Director of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services.

(2) The Forensic Examiners Certification Committee (committee) shall be responsible for certifying forensic examiners. The committee shall consist of three (3) members who are all certified forensic examiners. The Director of the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (division director) shall appoint members for two-year terms. At least one (1) member shall be a psychologist, and at least one (1) member shall be a psychiatrist. The director of forensic services (director) shall attend and coordinate committee meetings, but will not have voting powers.

(3) Persons may perform forensic examinations under the direct training and supervision of a certified forensic examiner if they meet the following requirements for physicians or psychologists.

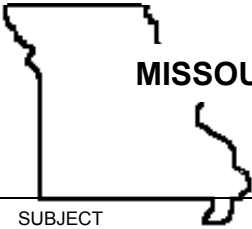
(A) For physicians:

1. An M.D. or D.O. degree from an accredited university or college;
2. A license to practice as a physician, issued by the Missouri State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts;
3. Completion of at least one (1) year of psychiatric residence.

(B) For psychologists:

1. A Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree in clinical psychology or counseling psychology from an accredited university or college.
2. A license to practice as a psychologist, issued by the Missouri State Committee of Psychologists, or documented eligibility for such licensure.

(4) The committee may certify persons as forensic examiners on the question of competency to stand trial if those persons meet the requirements of section (3) and all the following:



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(A) Have performed at least ten (10) examinations on the question of competency under the direct training and supervision of a certified forensic examiner within one (1) year before applying for certification. The supervising examiner or committee, or both, may require more than ten (10) examinations.

(B) Have attended at least two (2) training sessions approved by the director on forensic evaluations or the legal system within one (1) year before applying for certification. One of those sessions shall be the training session on forensic evaluations sponsored by the department.

(C) Have demonstrated to the supervising examiner and the committee a knowledge of legal and clinical issues involved in competency to stand trial. Such knowledge may be demonstrated by written or oral examination, or both, or as otherwise required by the committee.

(D) Have completed an approved psychiatric residency if they have an M.D. or D.O. degree, or have been licensed to practice psychology in the State of Missouri.

(5) Persons shall apply in writing to the director for certification on the issue of competency to stand trial. The application shall include documentation that the applicant has completed requirements of this DOR and a letter from a certified forensic examiner, recommending the applicant's certification.

(A) The committee shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision. If the committee denies certification, it shall state the reason for denial and conditions the applicant must fulfill to be certified.

(B) The committee may waive any of the requirements in section (4) if the applicant can document equivalent experience and knowledge of forensic evaluations.

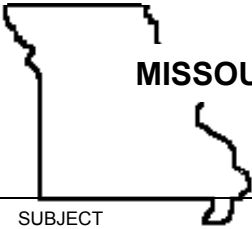
(6) The committee may certify persons as forensic examiners on the question of criminal responsibility if those persons meet requirements of section (4) and all the following:

(A) Have performed fifteen (15) or more examinations on the questions of criminal responsibility under the direct training and supervision of a certified forensic examiner in the year prior to applying for certification. The supervising examiner or the committee, or both, may require more than fifteen (15) examinations.

(B) Have attended in the year before applying for certification at least one training session sponsored by the department or approved by the director on evaluation for criminal responsibility.

(C) Have demonstrated to the supervising examiner and the committee a knowledge of clinical and legal issues involved in criminal responsibility. Such knowledge may be demonstrated by written or oral examination, or both, or as otherwise required by the committee.

(7) The procedure for application for certification on the issue of criminal responsibility is the same as that in section (5). The committee may waive any of the requirements under section (6) if the applicant can document equivalent experience and knowledge of forensic evaluations.



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(8) Certifications are valid for two (2) years. Three (3) months before expiration, examiners may apply for recertification by sending a letter of application to the director and documentation that they have performed or supervised at least ten (10) examinations in two (2) years on the issues they are certified to perform in and have attended at least one (1) training sessions on forensic topics approved by the director. Procedures for recertification shall be the same as those in section (5).

(9) Certified forensic examiners may supervise persons in performing examinations only on issues those examiners are certified to examine.